



Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Advent Term

Newsletter No.13

Friday 13th December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Well done to our EYFS & KS1 children who all performed so beautifully and confidently in the Nativities this week. They should all feel very proud of their wonderful performances. Children learnt many words and collectively their singing was beautiful - truly fantastic performances from all that parents and carers will cherish. Thank you to those staff that helped make this happen and to the parents who provided costumes.

Well done also to those children who took part in the gymnastics performances this week. It was wonderful to see your graceful achievements and how hard you have been working throughout the term.

A polite reminder for children to make Christmas party hats over the weekend to wear on their party day next week (the Nursery and Reception party day is on Monday and the Year 1-Year 6 party day is on Tuesday). Children are welcome to wear own clothes/Christmas jumpers but please do not feel the need to buy anything new.

Please also note that this Advent term finishes next Thursday (19th Dec) at the usual time for our Nursery children, and on Friday (20th Dec) at 12.15pm for children in Reception – Year 6.

We look forward to the Christmas party days and whole school Christmas lunch next week.

Wishing you a good weekend.

God bless,

Mrs Benn

DIARY DATES

Sunday 15th December

Third Sunday of Advent - Gaudete Sunday

Monday 16th December	Week 1 of the Menu EYFS Party Day & Magician (Children may wear Christmas jumpers and/or own clothes) Year 2 Explorer Day
Tuesday 17th December	Year 1 – Year 6 Party Day (Children may wear Christmas jumpers and/or own clothes)
Wednesday 18th December	Whole School Christmas Lunch (Children may wear Christmas Jumpers and/or own clothes)
Thursday 19th December	Advent Term Ends for Nursery Year 6 WW2 Christmas Show for Parents 6pm (At School)
Friday 20th December	Advent Term Ends for Reception to Year 6 12.15pm
Sunday 22nd December	Fourth Sunday of Advent

Christmas Holidays: Monday 23rd December 2024 to Friday 3rd January 2025

Monday 6th January 2025	Lent Term Starts for Nursery – Year 6 / The Feast of the Epiphany
Monday 20th January 2025	SCHOOL CLOSED – STAFF INSET DAY

Term Dates 2025/2026

Please see a copy of the 2025/2026 Term Dates attached. A printed copy will be sent home with children next week.

Extra Curricular Activities

Please note that this term's Extra Curricular Activities finished this week (except the Thursday morning gymnastics club which finishes on 19th December). A printed version of the extra-curricular activities schedule for the Lent term 2025 will be sent home with children next week. Please note that activities start again from Monday 8th January. When you have selected the activity you wish your child to participate in, please complete the relevant booking process. HFCS slips should be completed for Wake Up and Shake Up, Badminton and Street Dance only. Please do not include any payment for Street Dance, this amount will be added to the relevant children's Parent Pay once places have been confirmed. Please return HFCS slips to Mrs Gonoud at Reception by Thursday 19th December.

Celebrate Success!

To link in with our Vision statement, 'To value, inspire and challenge all', we invite parents/carers to notify us of special achievements (outside of school e.g. music, sports, positive contribution) your child has achieved so they can be recorded on their school record and shared with children and staff. Please email bethany.chandler@hfcs.org.uk for notification. Your child will receive recognition for their achievement from their class teacher, who will award them a marble for the class jar, and Mrs Benn, who will issue a 'Head teacher's Award' certificate. If you send a photo of your child's achievement it will be posted on Mrs Chandler's 'Wall of Fame.'

Amazing Achievements

Congratulations to Emma Kathy Leo for progressing to Stage 4 in her swimming lessons. Well done Emma.

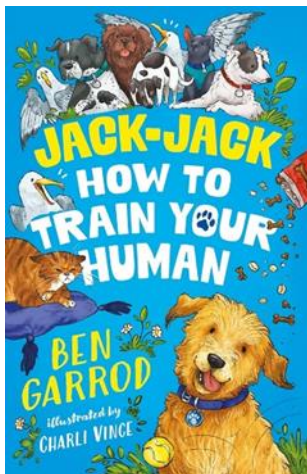
Congratulations to Seren Yarrow for winning Gymnast of the term on Monday at Gymlets Gymnastic club which Lauren Sargood runs. Seren performed at her end of year display in front of a big audience. Well done Seren.

Weekly Sports Update

Our Year 5 & 6 netball team travelled to Lynch Hill this week to play 3 league matches. They played Lynch Hill, Montem and Godolphins - three very impressive teams. Our girls worked so hard over all three games and showed great work ethic and sportsmanship throughout. Well done girls! Mr Holder

Book of the Week

Each week, I will recommend a lovely new book, which will hopefully inspire our children to broaden their reading tastes.



Author: Ben Garrod

Illustrator: Charli Vince

This amusing illustrated chapter book provides a dog's-eye view of the ups and downs of living with humans and confirms that canines are definitely in charge! (age 8+)

Wednesday Word

Please see the lovely words below from Nathan Philip, one of our Year 6 Faith Ambassadors.

Dear Parents/Carers,

This Sunday's Gospel calls us to prepare for Jesus' coming by showing mercy and prioritizing others. John the Baptist urges us to share with those in need and show compassion, reminding us that love and kindness should come before power or money. The Church also teaches us to practice the Spiritual Works of Mercy, such as being patient, forgiving, and showing empathy. Acts of mercy not only help others but also open us to receive God's mercy. Through these actions, we can make the world a better place and strengthen our faith in Christ.

Wednesday Word! Mercy

When the crowds asked John the Baptist, "What must we do?" He answered, "If anyone has two coats they should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same". There were tax collectors too who came for Baptism, and they said to him, "Master, what must we do?" He said to them, "Don't collect any more than you should". Then he said to some soldiers, "Don't force people to pay money to make you leave them alone, but be satisfied with your pay". By now, a feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John the Baptist might be the Christ, so John declared before

them all, "I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not good enough even to untie his sandal strap".

God is merciful towards us. We too should learn to be merciful.

Yours sincerely,

Nathan Philip

Year 6 WWII Christmas Show

We are looking forward to seeing our Year 6 parents attend their children's WWII Christmas Show next Thursday 19th December at 6pm. Parents are welcome to film the show if they stand at the back of the hall. Parents must not stand in the seating area, or hold phones or iPads up to record from the seating area, as this obscures the view of those behind. No photograph or films may be posted on any social media site; this would be a breach of privacy. All photographs and/or recordings may only be taken of you own child for personal use. Thank you for your support and understanding with this.

Staffing Update

Thank you to everyone who joined staff in wishing Mrs Fletcher-White the very best for the future as her last day working at Holy Family as our Business Manager was yesterday. Despite only working with us for four terms she quickly became a dependable and integral member of team. I credit Mrs Fletcher-White for supporting the smoothest transition possible into St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust. She will be missed. We seek your patience as Mrs Benn and the administration team absorb some elements of her role and continue to navigate working with our new strategic partners at St Thomas.

Attendance

Please be advised that absences just prior to and following a school holiday will be unauthorised if parents do not provide medical evidence on request. This is to prevent absence due to extended holidays. Please see HFCS Attendance For Learning Policy: <https://www.holyfamilycatholicsschool.org.uk/assets/HFS-Attendance-for-Learning-Policy-September-2024.pdf>.

Phonics

If you would like to continue to support your child at home with their phonics the following links below might be useful. If you look for the name of the adult who leads your child's RWI group or the colour of book that they are on you will see links to the sounds that have been taught this week. This support is primarily aimed at those children in Reception – Year 2 who are currently learning their phonics; however, all parents are very welcome to access the links below regardless of what year their child is in.

Mrs Harris	Set 1	W- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/fLpksvKJ/34k1vWC2 V- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/DMKknnak/62vEU8vu
Mrs Scott	Set 1	D- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/12rXTCyV/cKOrG1o8 U- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/91LydyAX/Kw3GeAU8
Mrs Mulrooney	Word Time	https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/r7mpteCH/u6ccDdh1 https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/gmX1Vhv0/Fiu7lPhX
Mrs Hendy	Ditties	TH- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/jFuYI9EA/u7pVbBpx QU- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/VelHDCwp/TLddKsPw NG- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/NSbGkcRv/uhKMmGxJ
Mrs Crow	Green	AIR- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/WhwB8R6m/pXSqmWDA

		IR- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/yZfPv2Sb/s5pBuRTg OU- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/8fQ8uzYL/vI9zH8er OY- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/a4nsblq9/gqr8Y5S5
Mrs Keogh	Pink	OI- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/06eYTGth/QngU6HT0 AW- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/c2aEF6jl/7r892I5X U-E- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Bo9CILPe/RxNtLpkP ARE- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/UmWGujjT/LGjI2cRT
Mrs Birch Mrs Wilson Mrs Hogg	Orange Yellow Grey	AU- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/H89BsxFK/GMsCgysG UE- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/zEPWKhmm/ywiCpC8X IE- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/LfJkDV1v/bRkBV08Z E-E- https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/QckfwwrC/wSfsMEhI

Year 1 Jolly Post Office – Closes Wednesday 18th December

Year 1 are running a Jolly Post Office this Christmas to deliver the Christmas cards in school.

If you would like to use it, please follow these instructions.

1. Put the name on the envelope for who it is for.
2. Add a surname or initial if there are two children with the same name in the class.
3. Put on the **class postcode**, so you don't need to write the teacher's name.

(It also makes it easier for the Year 1 sorting)

Class Postcodes:

NAM – Morning Nursery	NPM – Afternoon Nursery
REH/ES – Ms Herring and Mrs Scott	RDH – Mrs Harris
1LH – Mrs Hume	1CH – Mrs Hendy
2MM – Miss Macfarlane	2DP – Mrs Powell
3MM/RK – Mrs Martinez and Mrs Kukla	3SI – Ms Iqbal
4CD – Miss Dardis	4MEG – Mrs Green/Mrs Evans
5TF – Mrs Fox	5DO'R – Mrs O'Reilly
6SCD – Mrs Doyle / Miss Caswell	6SR – Mrs Ragg

4. Post them in the post box, which will be outside the main front door at the start of the day. The post box will be open from **Monday 2nd December** until **Wednesday 18th December**. We hope you use it, as we are looking forward to sorting and delivering the cards. Thank you, Year 1.

Christmas Party Hats/Clothes/Food

Please can your child make a Christmas Party Hat to wear on their Christmas Party Day, which will take place on:

Monday 16th December: EYFS

Tuesday 17th December: Year 1 - Year 6

Children may wear Christmas jumpers and/or their own clothes on party day. Please note, break times will be as normal so warm clothes are essential. Only flat, sensible shoes that children can run around in may be worn.

It will be normal school lunch arrangements on party days. Thank you.

Wednesday 18th December – Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper/Own Clothes Day

Whole-school Christmas lunch will be served to all full time pupils on Wednesday 18th December free of charge, this includes our full time Nursery children. A letter has been sent home with children detailing the meal options. If you have not already done so, please complete the reply slip on this letter and return it to your child's class teacher no later than Monday 15th December. Please note if you have already ordered a lunch for this day on the Colham Catering Portal you need to untick to cancel the order. Orders will not be taken from their system for Christmas lunch so you must complete the reply slip on the letter sent home. A copy of this letter is attached to the newsletter.

On this day, children may wear either a Christmas jumper and/or their own choice of clothes.

Thank you.

Nursery and School Admission for September 2025

Admission to Reception September 2025

The above admission round is now open and closes on 15th January 2025. You must apply via your local authority website completing a Common Application Form (CAF) for a place in a Reception class to start September 2025.

In addition to completing a CAF, please complete our Supplementary Form (Called 'Reception School Supplementary Form 2025 2026' on our website) and return with the relevant supporting documents to Holy Family Catholic School by 15th January 2025. Reception Supplementary Forms can be obtained from the school website or the school office.

Admission to Nursery September 2025

The Nursery 2025 admission round is now open. Nursery application forms can be obtained from the school website or the school office; please complete our Application Form and return with the relevant supporting documents by 15th January 2025.

OTHER

Solutions4Health – The GEMS Team

The GEMS Team have just released a new date for their next 3 part ADHD course – please see below.

ADHD Course	<i>Hosted by Parenting Special Children:</i> Session 1: Provides an insight into what ADHD is. Learn about the challenges & concerns often raised. Explore strengths and opportunities related to ADHD. Session 2: Learn to understand children's anxiety and how this relates to ADHD. Session 3: Gain an understanding of attention deficit behaviours & how to manage these.	ADHD SUPPORT For Parents & carers of children aged 3 and over, primary & secondary school aged children.	Online: Thursday 16th, 23rd & 30th January 2025.	7 - 9pm
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Booking link : <https://parentingspecialchildren.co.uk/events/adhd-course-berkshire-east-jan-2024/>.

Slough Family Information Service

Please see below and the leaflets attached to this newsletter for some further information regarding some services available to families in Slough.

- [Slough Information and Services Guide](#) provides information and guidance to families on childcare, leisure and support services.
- [Slough Local Offer](#) is a guide to services available for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- [Slough Local Offer - Children's Disability Register](#) - Parents, carers can register their child with SEND on the online register and have the option to get a [Max Card](#). The Max card offers discounts at various entertainment venues.